



Making Northern Ireland Safer For Everyone Through Professional, Progressive Policing

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2009-03273

Keyword: Operational Policing

Subject: Warnings Issued and Vehicles Seized Under New Policing Powers

Request and Answer:

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Question 1

Under the new policing powers which allow the PSNI to issue warnings to those people driving uninsured vehicles or those causing alarm, distress or annoyance or to call on the assistance of Road Policing or an Armed Response Unit, where necessary, to seize the vehicle, please provide the following information:

How many warnings (to date) have been issued in Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Draperstown respectively

Answer

No Insurance is an offence for which there would be no warnings given. Detected offences would always result in a prosecution or the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

For vehicles causing a nuisance there is no record kept of warnings and again if specific offences, where detected would be dealt with by way of prosecution or the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Consequently there are no records of warnings having been issued in relation to offences detected in connection with the new powers referred to.

Question 2

How many times have PSNI called upon (to date) Road Policing or an Armed Response Unit (where necessary) to seize vehicles in Cookstown, Magherafelt, Maghera and Draperstown respectively?

Answer

From April 1, 2009 until October 30, 2009, 24 seizures recorded for the Cookstown Area Command Unit. No seizures, made under the new powers have been recorded in Magherafelt Area Command Unit, which includes the Maghera and Draperstown sectors.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.